

A Study to Evaluate the Effectiveness of Structured Teaching Programme on Knowledge Regarding Child Abuse among Mothers in Gunsara Village, Bharatpur (Rajasthan)

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Abstract

Introduction: Child abuse is a serious problem that has a significant long term impact on individual, families, and community. Raising awareness and understanding of child abuse is the first important step towards addressing the issue. Originally the term 'child abuse' was restricted to the battered baby syndrome but it has now been extended to a deliberate act of physical, sexual, emotional and maltreatment or neglect of children by parents, guardians or others.

Materials & Methods: In this study, pre experimental “one group pre and post test design” used to evaluate the effectiveness of structured teaching programme on knowledge regarding child abuse among mothers.

Results: Association test between the post-test level of knowledge with the selected demographic variables shows the significant association between post-test levels of knowledge with educational status of mothers. The χ^2 value was 11.15. This was significant at $P < 0.05$ level. There was no significant association between the level of knowledge with age, occupation, monthly income, number of children, type of family and source of information regarding child abuse.

Conclusions: If children's are educated, healthy, happy and have access to opportunities, they are the country's greatest human resource. Children are the treasures of a nation. They are to develop into its citizens and leaders of tomorrow. Healthy children are the greatest resource and pride of any nation. Investment in the children's development and safety is an investment in the future of the nation. Thus their health and development must be monitored at every step of their life. They deserve to inherit a safer.

Keywords: structured teaching programme; Knowledge; child abuse

Introduction

Before you beat a child be sure you yourself are not the cause of offence”

- Austin O'Malley

Worldwide, there are three million reports of child abuse and neglect per year. However, experts view is that the actual number is 3 times the amount of child abuse and neglect estimated.

It is a sensitive issue that is rarely openly discussed by the general people. Sadly, there is a significant underestimation by the community of the extent and nature of the problem. Child abuse also known as *child maltreatment, child neglect, parental dysfunction, silverman's syndrome*.

The first case of a battered child found by Samuel West in 1888, but it was misdiagnosed as due to rickets. Infanticide was well known in China, Rome and Greek. In India the first case of child abuse was described in 1967 by Indian literature. And there is a lack of general awareness of Child Abuse and Neglect (CAN).

According to **World Health Organization (WHO)**, “Child abuse or maltreatment constitutes all forms of physical or emotional ill-treatment, sexual abuse, neglect or negligent treatment or commercial or other exploitation, resulting in actual or potential harm to the child's health, survival, development or dignity in the context of a relationship of responsibility, trust or power”.

Child abuse is a state of emotional, physical, economic and sexual maltreatment meted out to a person below the age of eighteen and is a globally prevalent phenomenon. However, in India, as in many other countries, there has been no understanding of the extent, magnitude and trends of the problem. The growing complexities of life and the dramatic changes brought about by socio-economic transitions in India have played a major role in increasing the vulnerability of children to various and newer forms of abuse. Child abuse has serious physical and psycho-social consequences which adversely affect the health and overall well-being of a child.

The **world health organization (2001)** reported approximately 31,000 deaths recognized to homicide among children less than 15 years of age. In 2002 it has reported that suicide is the third leading cause of death in adolescent around the world. It has also estimated that almost 53,000 child deaths in the year were due to child homicide. Each year more than 40 million children are subjected to child abuse.

TNAI journal of India(2011) reported that each year tens of thousands of children are traumatized by physical, sexual and emotional abusers or by care givers who neglect them.

Lesley. D. Biswas(2011) noted in times of India news paper that, every 2.5 hours a child below 16 years of age and every 13 hours a child below 10 years of age is raped in India, making it the country with the highest number of child sexual abuse of any country.

Global Prevalence of Child Sexual Abuse study conducted by **The Centers for Disease Control and the U.S. (2011)**, 19.7% of women globally experienced sexual abuse prior to the age of 18. The highest prevalence rate of child sexual abuse geographically was found in Africa (34.4 %). Europe showed the lowest prevalence rate (9.2%). America and Asia had prevalence rates between 10.1% and 23.9%.

Ministry of statistics and programme implementation, Government of India (2012) report shows that, Sikkim had the highest Work Participation Rate (WPR) in the country with 12.04 % child laborers among total children in the age group of 5-14 years, followed by **Rajasthan 8.25 %** and Himachal Pradesh (8.14%) during 2001. The other states having higher than the national average of 5 percent WPR for children are Andhra Pradesh (7.7%), Chattisgarh (6.96%), Karnataka (6.91%), Madhya Pradesh (6.71%), J&K (6.62%), Arunachal Pradesh (6.06%), Jharkhand and Assam (5.07%). It is alarming that, in 2011, the Crimes against children reported a 24% increase from the previous year with a total of 33,098 cases of crimes against children reported in the country during 2011 as compared to 26,694 cases during 2010. The State of Uttar Pradesh accounted for 16.6% of total crimes against children at national level in 2011, followed by Madhya Pradesh (13.2%), Delhi (12.8%), Maharashtra (10.2%), Bihar (6.7%) and Andhra Pradesh (6.7%).

Objectives

- To assess the level of knowledge regarding child abuse among mothers before structured teaching programme.
- To assess the level of knowledge regarding child abuse among mothers after structured teaching programme.
- To find out the effectiveness of structured teaching programme on child abuse.
- To find out the association between the post test level of knowledge with the selected demographic variables.

Methodology:

In this study, **pre experimental “one group pre and post test design”** used to evaluate the effectiveness of structured teaching programme on knowledge regarding child abuse among mothers.

Sample and sample size

This study was conducted in Gunsara village. It is situated in kumhertahsil, Bharatpur district of Rajasthan state. It is 18 kilometer away from the Bharatpur city. The total population of this village is 4350. This village is having nearly 500 families. There are 450 mothers having children, birth to 18 years of age.

A proportion or subset of the population is known as sample. The sample of this study consists of 50 mothers, who are having children, birth to eighteen years of age and residing in Gunsara village, Bharatpur (Rajasthan).

Sampling technique

For this study the samples were selected by using convenient sampling technique. It is a type of non-probability sampling which involves the sample being drawn from that part of the population which is close to hand. That is, a sample population selected because it is readily available and convenient.

Validity and Reliability

In order to establish the reliability of the tool, it was administered to six mothers.

Reliability was obtained by spearman correlation method. Reliability of the tool was 0.95. Thus the tool was found highly significant and reliable.

Results

“Child is as soft as a flower”

The pre test result revealed that 36(72%) mothers had inadequate knowledge, 14(28%) had moderately adequate knowledge and none had adequate knowledge regarding child abuse.

The post test result revealed that, out of 50 mothers, 15 (30%) mothers had moderately adequate knowledge, 35 (70%) had adequate knowledge and none had inadequate knowledge regarding child abuse.

Regarding causes and types of child abuse, pre and post test mean were 5.64 and 9.64 respectively, with standard deviation of 2.18 and 1.83.

Considering the assessment, management and prevention of child abuse, pre and post test mean were 6.26 and 13.04 respectively, with standard deviation of 2.92 and 2.15.

Total pre test mean and standard deviation were 11.90 and 3.76 respectively with standard error of the mean 0.53. Post test mean and standard deviation were 22.68 and 3.32 respectively with standard error of the mean 0.47.

With regards to causes and types of child abuse, mean difference and standard error of the mean were 4.00 and 0.28 respectively with SD of 1.97 and calculated t value was 14.28. It was significant at 0.05 level.

The level of knowledge about assessment, management and prevention of child abuse was significant at 0.05 level. Mean difference was 6.78 with SD of 3.42. Standard error of the mean was 0.48 with calculated t value 14.00.

While comparing the total level of knowledge between pre-test and post-test, the difference mean value was 10.78 with a standard deviation of 4.26 and calculated t value was 17.86. Standard error of the mean was 0.60. It was statistically significant at $P < 0.05$ level. This shows that there was significant increase in the level of knowledge of mothers regarding child abuse after the STP.

Association test between the post-test level of knowledge with the selected demographic variables shows the significant association between post-test levels of knowledge with educational status of mothers. The χ^2 value was 11.15. This was significant at $P < 0.05$ level. There was no significant association between the level of knowledge with age, occupation, monthly income, number of children, type of family and source of information regarding child abuse.

Objectives of the study

1. To assess the level of knowledge regarding child abuse among mothers before structured teaching programme.

distribution of the level of knowledge regarding child abuse among mothers during pre-test. The result revealed that 36(72%) mothers had inadequate knowledge, 14(28%) had moderately adequate knowledge and none had adequate knowledge regarding child abuse.

2. To assess the level of knowledge regarding child abuse among mothers after structured teaching programme.

Illustrates the distribution of the level of knowledge regarding child abuse among mothers during post - test. After the structured teaching program there was a significant increase in knowledge level of the mothers. Out of 50 mothers, 15 (30%) mothers had moderately adequate knowledge, 35 (70%) had adequate knowledge and none had inadequate knowledge regarding child abuse.

3. *To find out the effectiveness of structured teaching programme on child abuse.*

The area wise distribution of level of knowledge regarding child abuse among mothers.

Regarding causes and types of child abuse, pre and post test mean were 5.64 and 9.64 respectively, with standard deviation of 2.18 and 1.83.

Considering the assessment, management and prevention of child abuse, pre and post test mean were 6.26 and 13.04 respectively, with standard deviation of 2.92 and 2.15.

Total pre test mean and standard deviation were 11.90 and 3.76 respectively with standard error of the mean 0.53. Post test mean and standard deviation were 22.68 and 3.32 respectively with standard error of the mean 0.47.

The area wise distribution of difference in level of knowledge regarding child abuse among mothers between pre and post test.

With regards to causes and types of child abuse, mean difference and standard error of the mean were 4.00 and 0.28 respectively with SD of 1.97 and calculated t value was 14.28. It was significant at 0.05 level.

The level of knowledge about assessment, management and prevention of child abuse was significant at 0.05 level. Mean difference was 6.78 with SD of 3.42. Standard error of the mean was 0.48 with calculated t value 14.00.

While comparing the total level of knowledge between pre-test and post-test, the difference mean value was 10.78 with a standard deviation of 4.26 and calculated t value was 17.86. Standard error of the mean was 0.60. It was statistically significant at $P < 0.05$ level. This shows that there was significant increase in the level of knowledge of mothers regarding child abuse after the STP with under five children. And after a STP, 80% mothers have got adequate knowledge and 20% got moderate adequate knowledge.

4. *To find out the association between the post test level of knowledge with the selected demographic variables.*

Illustrates the association between the post-test levels of knowledge regarding child abuse among mothers with the selected demographic variables.

This shows the significant association between post-test levels of knowledge with educational status of mothers. The χ^2 value was 11.15. This was significant at $P < 0.05$ level.

There was no significant association between the level of knowledge with age, occupation, monthly income, number of children, type of family and source of information regarding child abuse.

The overall findings of the study revealed that there was significant difference in the mean pre and post test knowledge after the structured teaching programme regarding child abuse among mothers. Hence the hypothesis stated at the beginning of this study is confirmed.

Conclusions

The findings of this study support the need for conducting an awareness programme regarding child abuse. The study proved that adolescent girls had inadequate knowledge regarding child abuse before. Structured teaching programme. After executing the structured teaching programme, the mother have improved the knowledge regarding child abuse. Such: structured teaching programme distribution can be carried out in the village to improve the knowledge of mother regarding child abuse.

Recommendations

1. A same kind of study can be conducted for a larger group.
2. A comparative study can be carried out to check the level of knowledge of mothers regarding child abuse in the urban and rural area.
3. Further studies should be conducted about the attitude and practice regarding prevention of child abuse among mothers.
4. A same kind of study can be conducted to antenatal, postnatal mothers, village health guide and village head to improve their knowledge level regarding prevention of child abuse.
5. An experimental study can be conducted with control group.
6. A longitudinal study can be done using post test after one month, six month and one year to see the retention of knowledge.

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